Sparks from Fr. Mark

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2008

The fall is one of my favorite times of the year. Besides the cooler weather, the changing leaves, and Friday night football, fall is also the time for marathons—26.2 mile runs.

For the last 12 years, every time fall rolls around I think of the Twin Cities Marathon, which I ran in 1996 as a fund raiser to buy a 15-passenger van for the Catholic parishes in Fall River County. The theme was "running so others may ride."

I had never been a runner until the spring of that year when I decided to run for the van. This looked like a good way to lose some weight and get into shape. It worried me that my dad Frank had died of a massive heart attack in April of 1979 and my brother Pat had suffered a heart attack in 1994 at the age of 38.

All this running, losing weight, and getting into shape is what saved my life, my cardiologist told me, because I, too, suffered a heart attack in December of that year at the age of 33.

Now, 12 years and three stents later, plus a roto rooter, I have begun to run again.

In the back of my mind for this last 12 years has been the hope that someday I would run another marathon. It looks like this hope is paying off. Last Saturday I ran 12 miles, which is the farthest I have run since December of 1996, and it felt great. This run was part of my training for the Twin Cities Marathon coming up on October 5 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, which I will run with two other parishioners, Kelli Wilson and Teresa Hammerquist, and another Piedmont runner Holly Kopplin. Who knows maybe we will run this marathon for Habit for Humanity, which would be pretty cool.

If you have time, please keep us in your prayers, that we all remain healthy for our big run.

Thank you,

The Week Ahead

August 25-31, 2008

Monday, August 25

Liturgical Color: Green
Readings: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12; Psalm 96:1-5; Matthew 23:13-22
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy (Intention: For Bob Weaver on this birthday)
6:30 pm: Returning Catholic Ministry core team meeting

Tuesday, August 26

Liturgical Color: Green
Readings: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17; Psalm 96:10-13; Matthew 23:23-26
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy (Intention: For the repose of passed family and friends of Reggie Gingras)
7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wednesday, August 27

Memorial of St. Monica

Liturgical Color: White
Readings: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18; Psalm 128:1-2, 4-5; Matthew 23:27-32
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy (Intention: Healing for those damaged by sexual abuse)

Thursday, August 28

Memorial of St. Augustine

Liturgical Color: White
Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Psalm 145:2-7; Matthew 24:42-51
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy (Intention: For the repose of Frank Keller)

Friday, August 29

Memorial of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

Liturgical Color: Red
Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mark 6:17-29
No Daily Liturgy

Saturday Morning, August 30

Liturgical Color: Green
Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Psalm 33:12-13, 18-21; Matthew 25:14-30
8:00 am: No Daily Liturgy

Saturday Evening, August 30

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Color: Green
Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63:2-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27
3:30 – 4:30 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:00 pm: Sunday Liturgy (Intention: For the OLBH parish community)

Sunday, August 31

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Color: Green
Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63:2-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27
8:00 am: Sunday Liturgy (Intention: Thanksgiving for the ministry of Sr. Joan and for the many gifts she has shared with us)
10:30 am: Sunday Liturgy (Intention: Blessings for students, teachers, and administrators as the new school year begins)

There will be no Saturday morning liturgies until mid October, as Fr. Mark is running on Saturday mornings in training for the Twin Cities Marathon on October 5.

Parish Community News

August 24, 2008

Gatherings of Grace

Wednesday, September 10

6:00 – 8:15 pm

Topic: Parish Feast Day

If you are new to our parish and are interested in attending Gatherings of Grace, look for registration forms in the gathering area. If you have questions, contact Teresa Thompson at 787-5168 or teresa.thompson@olbh.org.

Farewell Sister Joan...

I want to let everyone in the parish know that Sr. Joan Tetrault OSB has turned in her resignation and will no longer be involved with the OLBH youth ministry. She will work through the next two weeks. I thank Sr. Joan for her hard work, faith, simplicity, and for the ways she has graced our staff and parish with that good Benedictine spirituality. May the Lord bless Sr. Joan as she discerns her next ministry. And may he bless the St. Martin community during this time of transition as they prepare to move into their new monastery next summer. Blessings, Fr. Mark

Driveway Closed

For the next few weeks the north driveway coming into the church parking lot from Sturgis Road will be closed while a new one is constructed. We will need to use the side driveway coming in from Stage Stop Road. Thank you for your patience.

Pancakes! Home Baked Goodies!

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor one of their famous Pancake Breakfasts and Bake Sales on Sunday, September 7, from 8 am to noon. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee will be served. Come one, come all to get a breakfast that will satisfy! Fresh homemade baked goods will also be available for purchase. Free will donations for breakfast will go to the Food Pantry for Thanksgiving turkeys.

Middle School Youth Rally

This year's rally will be held at the Belle Fourche Community Center on Sunday, October 12, 9 am to 6 pm. This is for kids in grades 5 to 8. The keynote speaker and musician, Chris Padgett, has been a speaker at NCYC and NFCYM. We will celebrate Mass with Bishop Cupich, and then there will be talks, praise and worship music, games, parent sessions, food, t-shirts, and more! The fee is $25 if you register before September 30, and $35 after that date. Registration is now open; you will find information and registration forms in the gathering area. Please return completed registrations to Teresa Thompson in the parish office. If you are interested in carpooling, please sign up in the gathering area. We will need two adult chaperones—if you would like to volunteer, please contact Teresa at 787-5168.

News from Around the Diocese

August 24, 2008

Diocesan Women's Retreat

This year's Diocesan Women's Retreat: *The Lord is With You*, will be held October 17-19 at Outlaw Ranch in Custer. It will be directed by Fr. Dick McCaslin, SJ, and Sr. Marie Schwan, CSJ. For more information, call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Encountering Life Alone

Are you recently separated or divorced? Struggling with pain and loneliness? Healing can begin in this support group, which starts at 7 pm, Thursday, September 11, at St. Therese Church. The group is open to all Christian men and women. Pre-registration is requested; the fee is $25. For more information or to pre-register, call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Bereavement Support Group

Heal Your Grief is an eight-week non-denominational support group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. The group begins at 7:00 pm on Monday, September 29 at Blessed Sacrament Church. Please come early to register. For more information or to pre-register call Janece Rieman at 343-5547 or Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Blue Army Masses of Reparation

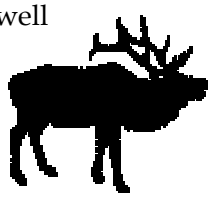
First Friday Mass will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on September 5 at 5:30 pm. Prayers and devotions will follow. First Saturday Mass will be held at the Cathedral of OLPH on September 6 at 8 am. Questions? Call Ellen Robertson at 718-9909.

Encountered Yet?

Find out just how much a WorldWide Marriage Encounter can do for your marriage--physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our next scheduled weekend is **September 12-14** at Blue Cloud Abbey in Marvin, SD. For more information or to register, please contact John or Dawn Elsinger at (605) 362-0924 or visit www.wwme.org.

Fellowship of Christian Hunters

The Fellowship of Christian Hunters is sponsoring a program called *Elk Hunting in the Black Hills* presented by Lowell Schmitz, a large animal biologist, on Wednesday, August 27, at Blessed Sacrament Church. We will begin with dinner at 6 pm. Questions? Call Larry or Elke Kopriva at 343-4570. ***BYHB (Bring your hunting buddies…)***



Does Your Student Know About the Catholic Newman Centers?

If your student is heading off to college this fall, and wants to stay connected with the Catholic faith, please submit the student's name, the school name, and a current email address and phone number, to Provatia Potvin, Diocesan Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at ppotvin@diorc.org or 343-3541. She will forward the information to the appropriate Catholic Newman Centers and these students will be invited to fall kick-off events.

Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule

August 30-31, 2008

Ministry	Saturday, August 30 5:00 pm	Sunday, August 31 8:00 am	Sunday, August 31 10:30 am
Bread Baker	Marlys Sears	Marlys Sears	Marlys Sears
Altar Servers	Olivia Lyle Megan Czmowski Joe Schulte	Kevin Chamberlain Jack Tidemann Hannah Ehresmann	Austin Evans Kaleah Evans Mattias Didriksen
Precious Blood	Brenda Czmowski Roberta Balzer Jacqui Blaha Joe Deaver	Betsy Van Asma Gary Erickson Jean Schubauer Teresa Thompson	Jim Hoag Christine Didriksen John Usera Bernadette Usera
Precious Body	Cathy Wang	Barb Erickson	Denise McCormick
Lectors	Judy Olson Dennis Olson	Larry Williamson Joyce Williamson	Collette Stoffel Pauline Stoffel
Sacristans	Cindy and Craig Thompson	Barb and Gary Erickson	The Blauvelt Family
Ushers	Diane Clarke Charlie Cresalia	Tom Van Asma Duane Schubauer	Pam and Bob Wentz
Choir	Lori Miller	Regina's Minstrels	Lori Miller

Intercessory Prayers

Life and Health Concerns

Fr. Jack Birdsall, Wanda Clemmons, Joe Creek, John Flohr, Amanda Johnson, Marvin Kari, Sharon Long, Fr. Dick McCaslin, Ben Roller, Josephine Rogers, Jan Snow, Don Snyder, Mary Kay Young

Repose

Frank Keller, Mick McKay

Collection Report

August 17, 2008

Loose	$1,814.54
Envelopes	1,064.00
Votive	7.75
Student	60.50
Adopt a Seminarian	0
Building Fund	25.00
Mass Intentions	20.00
Other	595.00
Total	$3,566.79

For the Ride Home

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2008

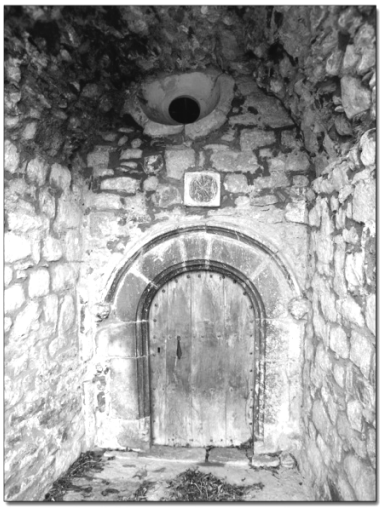
Scripture

- When he opens, no one shall shut; when he shuts, no one shall open. (Isaiah 22:22)
- The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. (Psalm 138:6)
- How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! (Romans 11:33)
- For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. (Matthew 16:17)

Reflection

- Is God revealed or understood?
- Is faith logical?
- Is faith built on love?
- Is there any rationality in love?

There is no greater way in which God can communicate with us than on the level of pure faith. This level does not register directly on our psychic facilities because it is too deep. God is incomprehensible to our facilities. We cannot name him in a way that is adequate. We cannot know him with our mind; we can only know him with our love. That is what some mystical writers call unknowing. It is by not knowing him in the ways that we now know him, that we do know him. The substance of the journey is pure faith.[1]



[1] Keating, Thomas, *Open Mind Open Heart*, (New York, NY: Continuum, 2003) 83-84.